

the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3819.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 793) supporting the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

##### H. RES. 793

Whereas chemistry is a vitally important field of science and technology that has transformed the world and improved the quality of life around the globe;

Whereas the chemical sciences have created an infrastructure that delivers the foods, fuels, medicines, and materials that are the hallmarks of modern life;

Whereas the contributions of chemical scientists and engineers are central to technological progress and to the health of many industries, including the chemical, pharmaceutical, electronics, agricultural, automotive, and aerospace industries, and these contributions boost economic growth, create new jobs, and improve health and standards of living;

Whereas, in order to foster the innovation that will ensure the Nation's global competitiveness, schools must cultivate the finest scientists, engineers, and technicians from every background and neighborhood, with a particular focus on increasing access to science, technology, engineering, and math education for Latinos, African-Americans, women, and other underrepresented students in these fields;

Whereas National Chemistry Week was established in 1987 by the American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society, to enhance public appreciation of the chemical sciences and to educate the public, particularly school-age children, about the important role of chemistry in everyday life;

Whereas 2009 marks the 140th anniversary of Dmitri Mendeleev's creation of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

Whereas the theme of National Chemistry Week in 2009, "Chemistry—It's Elemental", was chosen to raise public awareness about the importance of chemistry and the chemical sciences by emphasizing that the elements, forming the basis of the universe, play an integral role in daily life;

Whereas many common elements, such as copper in electrical wires, neon in lights, sodium in table salt, and aluminum in soda cans, are tangibly present in everyday life;

Whereas more than 10,000 volunteers from industry, government, and academia will observe National Chemistry Week during the week of October 18, 2009, by conducting hands-on science activities with millions of children in local schools, libraries, and museums; and

Whereas National Chemistry Week volunteers will help provide resources to science educators across the country, promote community events for recycling common elemental items such as aluminum cans, en-

courage students to explore creative representations of the elements in the Periodic Table, and generally act as "chemistry ambassadors" who emphasize the importance and contributions of chemistry to daily life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that the contributions of chemical scientists and engineers have created new jobs, boosted economic growth, and improved the Nation's health and standard of living;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Chemistry Week with appropriate recognition, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of chemistry to everyday life.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 793, the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 793, a resolution recognizing the importance of chemistry and honoring National Chemistry Week.

I want to commend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) for introducing this resolution.

The importance of chemistry and chemical engineering in our lives cannot be overstated. These disciplines contribute to public health by helping to keep our water clean and our food pure. They contribute to advances in medicine through new biomaterials, drug design and drug delivery techniques. They help make cleaner and more efficient energy technologies possible, and they help keep toxins out of our homes and out of our natural environment through the development of green chemicals and materials.

In short, chemistry and chemical engineering contribute in immeasurable ways to the economic strength, security, and well-being of our Nation and all its citizens. For this reason, it is important to get young people excited about chemistry and interested in pursuing careers in chemistry and in the sciences in general. National Chemistry Week plays a great role in this effort.

National Chemistry Week activities are carried out by local sections of the American Chemical Society located in all parts of our Nation. It is estimated that over 10,000 volunteers from industry, government, and academia will

participate in National Chemistry Week activities this year.

They will be working to design hands-on activities, to provide demonstrations and to develop exhibits. Through these activities, they will help stimulate the interest of young people in chemistry and in pursuing careers in science and technology.

So, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the American Chemical Society for its efforts to establish and to sustain National Chemistry Week.

Once again, I thank Mr. REYES and his cosponsors for introducing this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of chemistry in our daily lives and the positive impact of National Chemistry Week by supporting H. Res. 793.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EHLERS. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 793, supporting the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week.

This year marks the 21st anniversary of National Chemistry Week. It is a concept that was first introduced in 1987 by the American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society and one of the premier scientific societies in our Nation. Over the past 20 years, this annual event has proven to be a great success, and it will continue this week with various events, celebrating the impact chemistry has made on our society from the very beginning.

Designed to reach out to the public, especially elementary and secondary schoolchildren, the National Chemistry Week program will emphasize the importance of chemistry in everyday life with this year's theme, "Chemistry—It's Elemental," which will celebrate the Periodic Table of Elements. Created 140 years ago this year by Dmitri Mendeleev, the Periodic Table of Elements articulates the very basis of the universe, and it consists of common elements used in our everyday lives as well as some fairly exotic elements which are rarely used in our everyday lives.

Activities for the week will highlight the history of elements, the roles elements play in everyday life, the common and not-so-common uses of elements, and the history of the periodic table. This week is a wonderful opportunity for the public to engage in various events designed to increase the knowledge and awareness of chemistry's everyday effects.

More than 10,000 volunteers from local areas, businesses and schools will unite this week to educate millions of children across the country. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring all those who are volunteering their time and who are promoting these various activities through National Chemistry Week.

I would just like to add a few personal observations of things that I've encountered during my lifetime as a

scientist. I'm a physicist, not a chemist; but I have learned some chemistry. I remember speaking to a group about environmental issues sometime back, and a lady came up to me afterwards, and was very concerned—actually, I would say distressed.

She said, I'm terribly concerned about all these chemicals today and what's happening to us and what it's doing to us and our bodies.

I said, Well, that's certainly something to be concerned about. Do you have any chemicals specifically that you're worried about?

She said, No, no. All of them.

So I asked her if she liked to eat oranges. She said, Oh, yes, I love oranges.

I said, In spite of the fact that they're filled with chemicals?

She said she didn't know they were filled with chemicals.

I said, Well, yes, things like vitamin C and lots of other foods and chemicals that are very useful to your body.

The point that I made to her is that the question is not so much the chemicals; it's which chemicals. We have to recognize which are bad chemicals for individuals to ingest or to breathe and which ones are very good for us and are, in fact, very healthy. That's the point of what the Chemical Society is trying to develop here, that chemistry is an integral part of life. It is not bad in and of itself. In fact, it can be good in and of itself, but we should be aware as legislators and as scientists of the many great things that we have developed using chemistry which have improved living for people in this Nation and in other nations throughout the world.

So let's all join in this particular effort. Let's recognize the tremendous strides we have taken forward thanks to chemistry and, for that matter, physics and other sciences. Let's recognize that these are, by and large, good for the people and good for the Nation. Let's all join in this great event which recognizes what the American Chemical Society and chemists in general have done for the past few years.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to my friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA).

Mr. HINOJOSA. Thank you, Chairman BART GORDON from Tennessee, for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 793, a resolution recognizing the week of October 18 as National Chemistry Week.

I want to thank Congressman SILVESTRE REYES, co-Chair of the Diversity and Innovation Caucus, for sponsoring this resolution.

The American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society, established National Chemistry Week in 1987 to help educate the public, particularly school-aged children, about the important role of the chemical sciences and their significant contributions to our quality of life.

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This year, more than 10,000 National Chemistry Week volunteers, from both the public and private sectors, will help educate millions of children about the practical applications of chemistry by engaging them through stimulating hands-on science activities in local schools, in libraries and museums around the whole country.

During this year's observance of National Chemistry Week, students and chemistry professionals will celebrate the theme "Chemistry—It's Elemental." This theme recognizes the 140th anniversary of Dmitri Mendeleev's creation of the periodic table of the elements. The elements are the basis of the universe and of life on Earth, composing the graphite in pencils, the tungsten in light bulbs and in neon lights, the copper for cooling applications and the sodium in table salt, almost everything we encounter in our day-to-day activities.

The promotion of STEM education and the advancement of minorities in the STEM areas have become increasingly important in my congressional district and across the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, just last month, the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg, Texas, held its eighth annual Hispanic Engineering Science and Technology Conference to promote the importance of science literacy to thousands of students, parents and teachers. It was a big success.

HESTEC was created to address the shortage of scientists and engineers in our country. This year, the event drew more than 400,000 participants in deep south Texas. Since its inception in 2002, the university has created an exceptional pipeline of Hispanic scientists and engineers.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness, I am proud to say that in the past 2 years, Congress has expanded educational opportunities in STEM education, particularly for women and minority students, and authorized programs to recruit highly qualified teachers to high-need school districts in the STEM areas with the passage of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act in 2007, as well as the passage of the Higher Education Opportunity Act in 2008.

This legislation made historic investments in higher education to strengthen STEM education and create a new generation of minority workers in STEM fields. As you know, the House passed H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, last month to increase affordability and accessibility in higher education.

If the House-passed bill is signed into law, this legislation will provide \$2.5 billion over a 10-year period to strengthen minority-serving institutions in STEM areas and ensure that the students they serve graduate and become the engineers and scientists our country desperately needs.

National Chemistry Week highlights the importance of chemistry and the

natural sciences to our students. It's critical that our schools continue to cultivate exceptional scientists, engineers and technicians from every background to help strengthen our Nation's competitiveness and to promote scientific discovery and innovation in the 21st century.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRIFFITH). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. HINOJOSA. I want to thank Chairman REYES from El Paso for introducing this resolution, H. Res. 793, and I thank Chairman GORDON for bringing it to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, National Chemistry Week is critically important in promoting STEM issues in our schools and in preparing our students to pursue careers in STEM. I urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all I want to commend the previous speaker, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA). We work together on the Education Committee, and I have always admired his deep interest in science and his desire to make science available to and comprehensible to everyone in this Nation, including those who have not had the opportunity to study it in elementary or high school.

I commend him for his deep interest. Whenever I have needed help on this issue of science and science education, Mr. HINOJOSA has jumped into the fray with me, so I want to take a minute to commend him on that.

I also want to commend the Chair of the Science Committee, who has also been very helpful in these efforts. As most Members know, I was a professor for many years, a professor of physics. I taught every course at the college level, from the simplest to the most complicated. I have never lost my love for teaching, and particularly my effort to improve science education in the elementary and secondary schools.

Mr. HINOJOSA pointed out that if we do not produce a generation of scientists out of those students who are currently in elementary and secondary school, our Nation in the future will suffer because of that. On the next topic which will be coming to the floor, I will say more about that.

It's absolutely essential that we recognize how important it is for our students to learn these subjects. Parents must realize that. I always tell the students, if you really want to make certain you have a job after you get out of college, study science. You may end up in medicine, as the Speaker pro tempore has, or you may end up in other fields. But it's quite likely you are not going to get as good a job if you don't bother to learn science. This is just the nature of the world today.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 793, a resolution I introduced to recognize the week of October 18th as National Chemistry Week.

The American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society, established National Chemistry Week in 1987 to educate the public, particularly school age children, about the important role of the chemical sciences and their significant contributions to our quality of life.

This year, more than 10,000 National Chemistry Week volunteers from both the public and private sectors will help educate millions of children about the practical applications of chemistry by engaging them through stimulating hands-on science activities in local schools, libraries, and museums around the country.

During this year's observance of National Chemistry Week, students and chemistry professionals will celebrate the theme "Chemistry—It's Elemental!" This theme was chosen to emphasize the 140th anniversary of Dmitri Mendeleev's creation of the Periodic Table of the Elements. The elements are the basis of the universe and of life on Earth, composing graphite in pencils; tungsten in light bulbs and neon lights; copper for cooling applications; and sodium in table salt—almost everything we encounter in our day-to-day activities.

Local El Paso college students are doing their part to promote chemistry in our community by coordinating the Chemistry Circus. Sponsored by the Department of Chemistry at the University of Texas at El Paso and performed by the American Chemical Society Student Affiliates, the Chemistry Circus incorporates short vignettes that explore many fundamental concepts of chemical science. The performances are presented throughout the school year to K-12 audiences—and adults—emphasizing Texas science academic standards.

The promotion of student advancement and success in the STEM fields is one of my highest priorities. In 2008, I founded the Diversity and Innovation Caucus with five of my colleagues in the House of Representatives in order to generate policy ideas for increasing the participation of underrepresented groups in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, articulate the importance of pro-STEM and pro-innovation policies for underrepresented groups in STEM fields, and communicate the importance of promoting diversity in STEM for the achievement of America's innovation and competitiveness goals.

Over the past year, I am proud to say that the caucus has produced key legislative initiatives that promote the recruitment of highly-qualified teachers to high-need school districts, the development of laboratory facilities at less privileged schools, and the recruitment of minority students to the STEM fields through the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Emphasizing the importance of chemistry and the natural sciences to our students is essential to ensure that our schools continue to cultivate the finest scientists, engineers, and technicians from every background. Educating our children about the importance of chemistry and the natural sciences will help strengthen our nation's economic competitiveness and foster American ingenuity and innovation in the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, National Chemistry Week is a vital component in the effort to promote STEM issues in our schools. I therefore urge my colleagues to support this effort through the passage of this resolution.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 793 to support the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week.

This year, National Chemistry Week takes place on October 18-24 and is a community-based annual event that unites local sections of the American Chemical Society, schools, businesses, and individuals to communicate the importance of chemistry in our daily life. This year marks the 22nd Anniversary of National Chemistry Week, and events and demonstrations will take place across the country to engage students of all ages. This year's theme, "Chemistry—It's Elemental," emphasizes the important role of elements in everyday life and celebrates the 140th anniversary of Dmitri Mendeleev's creation of the Periodic Table of Elements.

I have been a strong supporter of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields and have long encouraged students and teachers to hold STEM education in higher regard. It is well documented that science and math skills are becoming increasingly important to the U.S. workforce, and with the creation of a new, competitive, and complex global economy, we must ensure that we are educating the next generation of STEM professionals. Innovation is a product of a sound knowledge in math, science, and engineering, and without this understanding, our ability to be innovative will decrease along with our ability to be competitive.

For this reason, I believe it is incredibly important to recognize the goals of National Chemistry Week to increase our understanding, and our students' understanding, of the chemical sciences. I applaud the American Chemistry Society's efforts in this regard and encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 793 for our students and the future of our economy.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, let me thank Dr. EHLERS for bringing both his real-world experience to the Science Committee, as well as his passion for the work that we do there. He makes us a better committee.

I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 793.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SUPPORTING COMPUTER SCIENCE AND COMPUTING CAREERS AMONG THE PUBLIC AND IN SCHOOLS

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 558) supporting the increased under-

standing of, and interest in, computer science and computing careers among the public and in schools, and to ensure an ample and diverse future technology workforce through the designation of National Computer Science Education Week, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 558

Whereas computing technology has become an integral part of culture and is transforming how people interact with each other and the world around them;

Whereas computer science is transforming industry, creating new fields of commerce, driving innovation in all fields of science, and bolstering productivity in established economic sectors;

Whereas the field of computer science underpins the information technology sector of our economy, which is a significant contributor to United States economic output;

Whereas the information technology sector is uniquely positioned to help with economic recovery through the research and development of new innovations;

Whereas National Computer Science Education Week can inform students, teachers, parents, and the general public about the crucial role that computer science plays in transforming our society and how computer science enables innovation in all science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines and creates economic opportunities;

Whereas providing students the chance to participate in high-quality computer science activities, including through science scholarships, exposes them to the rich opportunities the field offers and provides critical thinking skills that will serve them throughout their lives;

Whereas all students deserve a thorough preparation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, including access to the qualified teachers, technology, and age-appropriate curriculum needed to learn computer science at the elementary and secondary levels of education;

Whereas these subjects provide the critical foundation to master the skills demanded by our 21st century workforce;

Whereas computer science education has challenges to address, including distinguishing computer science from technology literacy and providing adequate professional development for computer science teachers;

Whereas the field of computer science has significant equity barriers to address, including attracting more participation by females and underrepresented minorities to all levels and branches;

Whereas Grace Murray Hopper, one of the first females in the field of computer science, engineered new programming languages and pioneered standards for computer systems which laid the foundation for many advancements in computer science; and

Whereas the week of December 7, in honor of Grace Hopper's birthday, is designated as "National Computer Science Education Week": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of National Computer Science Education Week;

(2) encourages schools, teachers, researchers, universities, and policymakers to identify mechanisms for teachers to receive cutting edge professional development to provide sustainable learning experiences in computer science at all educational levels